

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus for assuring [[the]] security of [[the]] a communication sent from a communication terminal on a sending end to a communication terminal on a receiving end ~~connected~~ via network, ~~which the system~~ comprising:

storage means storing associating information that associates user information [[of]] which can specify a user using the communication terminal on the sending end with a security type that should be applied to the communication of the user; and

security type selecting means selecting the security type from the associating information according to the user information [[of]], which can specify the user, sent from the communication terminal on the sending end.

2. (Original) A security communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the associating information is changed, the security type selecting means confirms immediately that the communication is establishment based on the changed information.

3. (Previously Presented) A security communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the security type selected by the security type selecting means is a kind of security protocol.

4. (Original) A security communication apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the security protocol is IPSEC.

5. (Previously Presented) A security communication apparatus according to claim 1, the security type selected by the security type selecting means is a group of definition information used for the security communication.

6. (Original) A security communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the group of definition information is a security policy.

7. (Original) A security communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the group of definition information includes at least either one of an authentication algorithm or an encryption algorithm.

8. (Currently Amended) A security communication system for assuring [[the]] security of [[the]] a communication sent from a communication terminal on a sending end to a communication terminal on a receiving end ~~connected~~ via network, ~~which the system~~ comprising:

user authentication means authenticating a user using the communication terminal on the sending end;

storage means storing associating information ~~that associates~~ which can associate a user using the communication terminal on the sending end information with a security type that should be applied to the communication of the user; and

security type selecting means selecting the security type from the associating information according to [[the]] user information which can specify the user authenticated by the user authentication means.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A security communication method for assuring ~~[[the]]~~ security of ~~[[the]]~~ a communication between communication terminals, those terminals connected to each other via network, ~~which~~ the method comprising a step of:

selecting ~~[[the]]~~ a security type that should be applied to a communication of a user according to ~~[[the]]~~ information ~~[[of]]~~ which can specify the user using one of the communication terminals terminal.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus ~~according to claim 11,~~ for assuring ~~[[the]]~~ security of a communication sent from a communication terminal on a sending end to a communication terminal on a receiving end via network, the apparatus comprising: type is selected by visually associating the visualized Internet address information with the visualized list of security type.

parameter input window means displaying at least one security type in a way where a security level of the security type is recognizable, and accepting association of a visualized Internet address information with the security type, and

security type selecting means selecting a security type applied to the communication with the communication terminal on the receiving end corresponding to the visualized Internet address information based on the association.

14. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus according to claim 13 ~~claim 11~~, wherein the Internet address information is converted to an IP address by utilizing the domain name system server.

15. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus according to claim 13 ~~claim 11~~, wherein the security type is a security protocol.

16. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus according to claim 13 ~~claim 15~~, wherein the security protocol is IPSEC.

17. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus according to claim 13 ~~claim 11~~, wherein the security type is a group of definition information used for the security communication.

18. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus according to claim 13 ~~claim 17~~, wherein the group of definition information is a security policy.

19. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus according to claim 13 ~~claim 17~~, wherein the group of definition information includes at least either one of an authentication algorithm or an encryption algorithm.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A security communication system ~~according to claim 20,~~ wherein assuring [[the]] security of a communication sent from a communication terminal on a sending end to a communication terminal on a receiving end via network, the system comprising: ~~type is selected by visually associating the visualized Internet address information with the visualized list of security type.~~

parameter input window means displaying at least one security type in a way where a security level of the security type is recognizable, and accepting association of a visualized Internet address information with the security type; and

security type selecting means selecting a security type applied to the communication with the communication terminal on the receiving end corresponding to the visualized Internet address information based on the association.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A security information apparatus ~~which~~ comprising:

storage means storing associating information that associates terminal specifying information specifying a first communication terminal with a recommendable security type to ~~[[the]]~~ a communication with the first communication terminal;

recommendable security type managing means selecting the recommendable security type from the associating information according to the terminal specifying information in response to an inquiry about the recommendable security type to the first communication terminal from a second communication terminal other than the first communication terminal via network; and

sending and receiving means sending the selected recommendable security type to the second communication terminal,

wherein the security information apparatus provided on the network independently of the first and second communication terminals.

25. (Currently Amended) A security information apparatus according to claim 24, ~~which~~ further comprising inquiry means, in case where the terminal specifying information cannot be found out in the associating information, ~~inquires~~ inquiring of the first communication terminal about the recommendable security type to the communication with the first communication terminal via network.

26. (Previously Presented) A security information apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the security type is a security protocol.

27. (Original) A security information apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the security protocol is IPSEC.

28. (Previously Presented) A security information apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the security type is a group of definition information used for the security communication.

29. (Original) A security information apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the group of definition information is a security policy.

30. (Original) A security information apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the group of definition information includes at least either one of an authentication algorithm or an encryption algorithm.

31. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus for assuring [[the]] security of [[the]] a communication sent from a communication terminal on a sending end to a communication terminal on a receiving end connected via network, ~~which~~ the apparatus comprising:

inquiry means inquiring of a specific security information apparatus about [[the]] a security type used for assuring the security, said security information apparatus comprising: storage means storing associating information that associates terminal specifying information specifying a first communication terminal with a recommendable security type to a communication with the first communication terminal; recommendable security type managing means selecting the recommendable security type from the associating information according to the terminal specifying information in response to an inquiry about the recommendable security type to the first communication terminal from a second communication terminal other than the first communication

terminal via network; and sending and receiving means sending the selected recommendable security type to the second communication terminal, wherein the security information apparatus provided on the network independently of the first and second communication terminals; and

security type selecting means selecting the security type according to a reply from the specific security information apparatus in response to the inquiry.

32. (Currently Amended) A security communication apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the reply includes one and more security types ~~type~~.

33. (Previously Presented) A security communication apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the security type is a security protocol.

34. (Original) A security communication apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the security protocol is IPSEC.

35. (Previously Presented) A security communication apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the security type is a group of definition information used for the security communication.

36. (Original) A security communication apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the group of definition information is a security policy.

37. (Original) A security communication apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the group of definition information includes at least either one of an authentication algorithm or an encryption algorithm.

38. (Currently Amended) A security communication system provided with a security communication apparatus for assuring [[the]] security of [[the]] a communication sent from a communication terminal on a sending end to a communication terminal on a receiving end connected via network,

wherein the security communication apparatus comprises inquiring means inquiring of a specific security information apparatus about [[the]] a security type used for assuring the security; and security type selecting means selecting the security type according to a reply from the specific security information apparatus in response to the inquiry; and

the specific security information apparatus comprises storage means storing associating information that associates [[a]] terminal specifying information specifying a first communication terminal with a recommendable security type to [[the]] a communication with the first communication terminal; and recommendable security type managing means selecting the recommendable security type from the associating information according to the terminal specifying information in response to [[the]] an inquiry about the recommendable security type to the first communication terminal from a second communication terminal other than the first communication terminal via network; and sending means sending the selected recommendable security type to the second communication terminal, wherein the security information apparatus provided on the network independently of the first and second communication terminals.

39. (Currently Amended) A security communication system according to claim 38, wherein the specific security information apparatus is provided with inquiry means, in case where the terminal specifying information cannot be found out in the association information, inquires the communication on the receiving end about the recommendable security type to the communication terminal via network.

40. (Currently Amended) A security communication method provided with a security communication apparatus for assuring [[the]] security of [[the]] a communication between communication terminals connected to each other via network, wherein,

the security communication apparatus inquires [[the]] of a specific security information apparatus about [[the]] a recommendable security type to a communication apparatus other than the communication apparatus;

the specific security information apparatus, which is provided on the network independently of the communication terminal and said other terminal, selects the recommendable security type in response to the inquiry from the communication apparatus via network, and then send it to the communication apparatus;

the security communication apparatus determines the security type according to the recommendable security type sent from the security information apparatus via network.

41. (New) A security communication system according to claim 8, wherein
the user authentication means inserts the user information in a option part of Internet Protocol header, and

the security type selecting means acquires the user information inserted by the user authentication means from Internet Protocol header, and selecting the security type from the associating information according to the user information.

42. (New) A security information apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the storage means stores the terminal specifying information and the recommendable security type in the associating information based on the response to the inquiry from the first communication terminal.

43. (New) A security information apparatus according to claim 42, wherein, in case of receiving no response to the inquiry from the first communication terminal, the security information apparatus notifies the receiving of no response to the second communication terminal.